

----- Forwarded by Bryan Fuell/ELFO/NV/BLM/DOI on 02/22/2010 07:09 AM -----

Katie Fite <katie@westernwatersheds.org>

02/21/2010 08:30 AM

To

"kenneth_miller@blm.gov"
<Kenneth_Miller@blm.gov>,
"bryan_fuell@blm.gov"
<Bryan_Fuell@blm.gov>, Jon Marvel
<jon@westernwatersheds.org>

cc

Subject

Hubbard Vinyard Meeting and Expanded
Alternatives Development Request

Dear Elko BLM,

I am dismayed at reading the Hubbard Vinyard EA. It's almost as if Elko is trying to eradicate sage-grouse, pygmy rabbits and aquatic species here by proposing such harmful use levels, and intensive trampling and habitat disturbance practices under the Shoesole scheme.

I request a meeting to discuss a greatly revised EIS process, with a wide range of alternatives that would provide some measure of protection for these species.

I believe I had e-mailed Bryan in late fall or early winter about the extreme new headcutting in Jakes Creek – a vivid example of the Shoesole intensive trampling and degradation practices. There is tragic ongoing degradation of the remaining sagebrush uplands, and loss of springs, seeps and stream flows here due to abusive practices that BLM's EA would only serve to exacerbate.

Katie Fite
WWP

----- Forwarded by Bryan Fuell/ELFO/NV/BLM/DOI on 02/22/2010 09:10 AM -----

Katie Fite <katie@westernwatersheds.org>

02/21/2010 09:37 AM

To "bryan_fuell@blm.gov"
<Bryan_Fuell@blm.gov>
cc
Subject
Hubbard Vinyard

Hi Bryan,

I tried re-sending a December 6, 2009 e-mail that I had sent to you. It had several photos of Hubbard Vinyard degradation. Had you gotten that earlier e-mail? December 6, 2009 with several HV Photos? I had tried including Ken Miller this time, as well. Alas, the e-mails did not get through. The photo #s refer to photos and text that went with the Dec e-mail.

If you do not get that e-mail, I can put it on a cd.

Here is the current message that bounced back:

WWP requests a tour of this allotment at the earliest possible time possible this spring.

The legacy of this Shoesole process is gaping new headcutting and destruction of sage-grouse brood rearing areas and aquatic species habitats. This is supposed to be some kind of fine-tuned closely herded undertaking. Yet the photos show the reality: Cattle urine and manure that will be in the water as soon as the ice thaws (discoloration in ice is from livestock waste). The current HV EA states that inventories were last performed in 2006. Look at the large-scale NEW erosion in Photo 3587. This does NOT look like an "improving" trend.

Look at the bare dirt banks, with no stubble height to protect the crumbling, eroding, grossly trampled sideslope soils from eroding into the stream.

It is time BLM acted to protect the public lands here, and not continue essentially ceding control of public lands to the Shoe group. The 2009 Assessment was based on only limited, and greatly inadequate info. It must be redone, and an honest evaluation occur.

Paralleling the legacy of 10 years of holistic/mob/intensive Shoesole grazing and BLM ceding oversight to the group as shown in the above photos from a December 2009 WWP visit, the EA states that surface flows have been lost at many of the springs.

This landscape and the wildlife populations that inhabit it are also threatened by much new infrastructure development - SWIP, Transcanada, potential wind just a bit to the south, and of course China Mountain to the North. Plus the barite mining and expanded roading, noise, human disturbance and habitat loss that has accompanied that. It is time for Elko BLM to act to address the serious impacts of livestock on these lands, and not just rubberstamp AUMs and an ecologically disastrous holistic/mob/intensive grazing scheme.

Katie Fite
WWP